

# MUNSON TOWNSHIP



## News Notes

Volume XII Issue I March 2011

GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

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### **Enjoy YOUR Parks . . .**

As the weather warms, we hope that you will take the opportunity to explore nature up close by visiting one of YOUR parks.

While the township is fortunate to have a few Geauga County parks within our boundaries, **The Rookery**, 10110 Cedar Road, **Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve**, 11620 Ravenna Road, and **Bass Lake Preserve**, 11445 Lakeview Road, Munson Township operates three parks for our community as well. Your township parks have facilities for a variety of active and passive recreational pursuits. Picnic pavilions (and in some cases, playing fields) can also be reserved for a small fee for gatherings or parties you are hosting. Fees may be waived for non-profit groups. Reservation forms are available at the Township Hall or on the township web site [munsontp.com](http://munsontp.com).

### **Munson Township Park** **12641 Bass Lake Road**

In 1995, the Munson Township Trustees purchased 29 acres for a township recreational park. The park was dedicated in 2001. It includes two large pavilions with picnic tables, three little league ball fields, a major league field, a foot-ball/soccer field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, two sand volleyball courts, two small playgrounds, a horseshoe pit, and a Vita Course. The township allows Chardon High School's Varsity Baseball team to use the major league field as its home field. A restroom facility was added in 2003. Nets are removed and restroom facilities are closed from Oct 31-Mar 31. This year's Community

Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2011 from noon to 5pm. As in the past, a free lunch is planned, along with live entertainment and games and raffles, to benefit the Munson Scholarship Fund. See you there!

New this year will be an event geared to our youngest residents: a Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at 10:30am.

### **Nero Nature Preserve** **12150 Bean Road**

In December 1999, the Munson Trustees received a grant to purchase 165 acres of park land from the Nero family. The park is at the northeast corner of Route 44 and Bean Road, nearly contiguous with the Township Park. The 165 acres is a mixture of woods, wetlands, hills and open space. The land is protected by a conservation easement held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. In 2002, a gravel roadway, parking lot and utility connections were installed. Area scout troops constructed park benches and wooden trail sections, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy lent its expertise in plotting walking trails. Two small picnic shelters were erected in 2006. Picnic tables are available at this quiet spot. As with all Munson Township parks, no ATVs or other motorized vehicles or hunting are allowed.

### **Scenic River Retreat** **10900 Mayfield Road**

In 2005, the township purchased a beautiful tract of land from the Klatka family on Mayfield Road near Alpine

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## Enjoy YOUR Parks . . . cont. from p. 1

Valley, overlooking Fowlers Mill. Like Nero Preserve, this land is also protected by a conservation easement held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, which makes it available for passive park purposes such as hiking and picnicking. Pavilions were erected in 2006. The park was opened to the public in June 2009. The lower pavilion has grills and picnic tables - we hope to have electric installed by the 2011 picnic season.

The park features two rain gardens which absorb runoff from the pavilion roof and parking lot and purify it through a natural filtration process. You may have noticed that the old house and outbuildings adjacent to the park have been torn down. The township purchased this property in 2010 and is working on clearing the debris and salvaging the sandstone for future projects. Fishing at the lake is catch and release only. This year's fishing derby is Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9am to noon.

The township also maintains two ball fields and a small playground at the township administrative center at 12210 Auburn Road.

Our Park Board, chaired by Joe Rosboril, with members Kristen Bluemmel, John Kaczynski, Tim Kearns, Bob Marn, Barbara Parkinson (Secretary), Michael Roche, Jon Schroeter and Mark Stukbauer, have concentrated their efforts the past couple of years on planning landscaping and enhancements for this park. Recently, Julie Johnston and Deb Farinacci volunteered to help plan activities and events in our parks.

Many hard-working residents also come together to serve food and help out in many other capacities during the Community Picnic.

Taking a break close to home can have many benefits: a little bit of exercise, it is easy on the pocketbook and the gas tank, and it is guaranteed to make you smile. If you have suggestions for activities or regarding maintenance, please contact one of your Trustees: Chair Irene McMullen, Andy Bushman, or Todd Ray.

We look forward to seeing you at our parks this year.

## Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus

The Park Board hosted a Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the township hall on Saturday, December 4th. The families enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast as the children eagerly awaited a turn to sit on Santa's lap. A photographer was available to take pictures for a nominal fee.



Thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus, to park board member Joe Rosboril, who coordinated the event, and to the park board members who assisted. Many thanks to the leaders and scouts of Boy Scout Troop 91, who volunteered in the kitchen, served and cleared, and helped with cleanup.



### 1st Annual Spring Egg Hunt . . .

Hop on down to the Munson Township Park located at 12641 Bass Lake Road on Saturday, April 23 at 10:30 a.m. A bunny will be there to greet you and your children and watch as the kids hunt for eggs. Bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs, which will be turned in for a bag of goodies!

Children will be divided into two age groups, 2-5 years and 6-9 years.

This is a rain or shine event, so dress appropriately. See you there!

## Message From the Fire Chief

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and we are now moving full steam ahead in 2011. Where does the time go? As I write this to all of you I am glancing out my window. This has been the week of the ice storms and power outages, not our typical "Geauga County Winter Day", and quite frankly, I think it's beautiful except for the power outages. I hope that those of you who are not quite so fond of the snow are at least trying to enjoy a relaxing evening or two in front of the fireplace or watching the skiers rushing down the slopes of Alpine Valley. Whatever your pleasure, inside or out, be safe!

Speaking of Alpine, Munson made national news on January 15, 2011 when about eighty-five skiers were stuck on a disabled ski lift at Alpine Valley. We responded to our good friends at Alpine to assist the Ski

Patrol with the safe removal of all the skiers that were stuck. Munson Fire Department also received assistance from many of the surrounding Fire Departments and from Lake and Cuyahoga County.



FF Mike Vatty in Rescue Mode

I would like to remind all of our Residents that during these winter months, it is extremely important to make sure that all furnaces and chimneys are inspected and in good working order and to be very wise about using "alternative heating devices." Should you have any questions in regards to home safety and inspections, please feel free to call us and we will do our very best to assist you in any way we can.

We are now in the process of starting a program for our senior citizens and any less fortunate residents that may need smoke detectors installed in their homes. Our

Fire Department will supply the detectors and do a simple installation for you. This is just another way for us to continue our support to our residents. Smoke detectors are a life saving piece of equipment. Please use them and check them regularly. They do save lives. Please contact the Fire Department for more information.

Another program that we have started is a Knox Box system for residents who need special attention or may be ill and at home without someone else living with them. This program allows the residents to place a key in a Knox Box that temporarily attaches to the primary door of your home. Once we place a key in the Knox Box, only the Fire Department can access that key. If a loved one is home alone and would need assistance we could safely enter the home and provide medical or special assistance to them. Knox Box is a national registered system that allows fire departments to safely gain entrance into businesses in their community. For more information please call me at 440-286-6797. There is a limited supply of these Knox Boxes.

Of course we all need to think about driving safely and keeping a few helpful supplies in the trunk: jumper cables, a small bag of road salt, a small shovel, first aid kit, and by all means...carry a nice warm blanket with you just in case! It is also a good idea to keep your car full of gas as the added weight may improve your car's road performance, and if you do happen to get caught in traffic or heaven forbid you should happen to go off the road, you'll be able to let the car run and keep warm without the worry of running out of fuel.

Once again our amazing grant writer Captain Matt Hartman has come through for us. The Munson Fire Department recently received a grant for \$50,000.00 to purchase new fire turnout gear for our firefighters and a special extractor to clean the turnout gear. Also, to add relief to our backs, we were able to purchase a new EMS power cot for our ambulance. Thank you Matt for your incredible efforts! And to our good friends at Best Sand/Fairmount Minerals, a very special thanks for your generosity!

Another important reminder for those residents and businesses who use private alarm companies, you must notify your agents of the fact that you require protection in Munson Township. The seven digit emergency number for our Fire Department, which goes directly to the Geauga County Sheriff's Dispatch Center,



Alpine Ski Patrol in Action

## Message From the Fire Chief . . .

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is (440) 286-7171, and the non-emergency number to the Munson Fire Department is (440) 286-6797. Of course, if you are calling for an emergency, remember to dial 9-1-1. We have found that many of the companies are using a Chardon or Chesterland mailing address (zip code), therefore routing emergency calls to the Chardon and Chesterland departments, wasting precious time while these calls are being transferred back to Munson Fire Department.

Well, I believe that's it for now. Again, enjoy the rest of this winter, spring is just around the corner.

## Cemetery Decorations:

All artificial flowers, decorations and containers in the Munson Cemeteries must be removed by May 1st. Those items remaining will be disposed of to prepare the cemeteries for Memorial Day and summer mowing. Also, iron plant hooks are no longer permitted in the cemeteries.

Join us at the Maple Hill Cemetery, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th for a short, but very meaningful ceremony to honor our veterans. The time will be posted on the township web site.

## Geauga Trumbull Recycling Facility for Household Hazardous Waste

**5138 Enterprise Blvd., Warren OH 44481  
1-800-707-2673**

The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District provides a seasonal recycling facility for residents to drop off household hazardous waste such as paint, oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, etc. and electronic equipment (E-waste).

The facility is open to Geauga and Trumbull residents every Wednesday from 10am-6pm, from May 4 through September 28, 2011. In addition, the facility is open on three Saturdays: May 7, June 4, and August 6 from 9am to noon.

**New this year**, two drop off events will be scheduled at the seasonal facility to dispose of **prescription drugs** - Wednesday, May 11 and Wednesday, September 21 from 10am-6pm.

## Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District Collection Events . . .

Not to be confused with Munson's Rubbish Days, the Solid Waste Management District has several collection events scheduled for Geauga County. All collection events will be located at the Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road (off Route 44).

### Appliance Collection **Saturday, April 9** **9:00 am to noon**

This is for washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, and other similar household appliances. No computers, televisions, or microwaves will be accepted. Free freon removal. Workers will be available to help unload vehicles. Location: Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road.

### Household Hazardous Waste **Saturday, April 16** **9:00 am to noon**

Acceptable household waste: paint, oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, gasoline, cleaners, arts supplies, wood strippers, degreasers, pesticides, etc. Not accepted: smoke detectors, acetylene tanks, medical waste, or electronic equipment (E-waste). Check Geauga Trumbull's website [www.startrecycling.com](http://www.startrecycling.com) under "events" for a more extensive list. Location: Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road.

### Document Destruction Events **Saturday, May 14** **& Saturday, September 10** **9:00 am to noon** **(New Program)**

Location: Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road.

### E-Waste Collection **Saturday, June 11** **9:00 am to noon** **(New Program)**

Electronic equipment such as computers, printers, cell phones, television sets, etc. There is a fee for television sets. Location: Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road.

All collections are for residents only, no commercial businesses. If you have questions, contact the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District office **1-800-707-2673**.

## Munson Rubbish Days

Bring your large items and boxes of accumulated rubbish to the **Vetter Ball Field Parking Lot** located behind the Munson Fire Station, 12200 Auburn Road

**Friday, April 29**

7 am to 5 pm

**Saturday, April 30**

7 am to 3 pm

The following items will NOT be accepted: construction remodeling debris, liquids, paint or other hazardous materials, rocks, yard waste, or household garbage. Reduce wood or pipe to six foot lengths. We can no longer accept televisions, computer monitors, or other small appliances with electronic components. Consolidate all small materials in strong boxes or containers. We will accept unbroken car batteries, lawn mowers, and tires off the rim - 4 per load. Call the township if you have a junk auto or truck to dispose of 440-286-9255.

Residents are reminded that newspapers, magazines and cardboard are recyclable. Separate them out for recycling at a later date.

Residents are also asked not to bring items that can easily be disposed of in the resident's weekly curbside pickup.

This service is for Munson Residents only. Identification may be requested.

## Munson Scholarship Program ...

In 2005, the Munson Township Trustees initiated a scholarship program for graduating seniors who live in Munson Township. The scholarships are funded by the proceeds from raffles and games at the township's annual community picnic and from private and corporate donations.

This year's seventeen applicants were interviewed by the scholarship committee, Frank Gliha, Jim Metzger, John Eklund, George Collins, Barbara Parkinson, and Andy Bushman, who recommended that scholarships totaling \$5,594 be awarded. On February 15, 2011, the Trustees were pleased to approve scholarships for Phoenix Cooke, \$599; Matthew Dwyer, \$599; Louis Seiler \$599; Nicolas Stephans, \$599; Jenna Deutsch, \$599; Dina Farone, \$599; Mayim Hamblen, \$400; Taylor Wilkes, \$400; Natalie McDaniel, \$400; Brandon Ferris, \$400; and Danielle Megger, \$400.

Since its inception, the Munson Scholarship Program has been supported by an

anonymous donor, who has matched or augmented the scholarships given by the township. This year, she increased the scholarships for those who received \$400 and awarded the full scholarship amount to those who were not selected by the committee. Thanks to her generosity, Brandon Ferris, Danielle Megger, Natalie McDaniel, Taylor Wilkes, and Mayim Hamblen received an additional \$200 and April Lynch, Vanessa Toth, Alyssa Pasternak, T.J. Demshar, Melissa Soss, and Emily Kolacz received \$599.

Munson can be very proud of these fine young men and women, who are exemplary not only for their scholastic achievements, but also for their service to their community. The township's best wishes go with our scholarship recipients, as they set out next year to accomplish their future goals.

2012 scholarship applications will be available at the school guidance offices, at the township office, and on the township web site in November 2011.

## Senior Assistance for Rubbish Days

The Geauga County Department on Aging and Munson Road Department will join forces to aid seniors by picking up and transporting their rubbish to the rubbish day dumpsters on Monday, April 25, Tuesday, April 26, and Wednesday, April 27, prior to the scheduled rubbish days.

To qualify for this service, you must be 60 years of age or older and live in Munson Township. Only 10 household items will be accepted per home.

To receive assistance, call the Department on Aging 279-2130, to register. Before you call, have the following information ready: senior's name, address, phone number, birth date and a list of the items to be picked up.

The township will be divided into three sections, one to be serviced each day. Make sure your items are set out by Sunday, April 17, so that you do not miss your scheduled pick-up. The Senior must also be home to sign a release for the items when they are picked up.



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**MUNSON TOWNSHIP  
NEWS NOTES**

**GEAUGA COUNTY OHIO**

12210 Auburn Road,  
Chardon OH 44024-9454

Phone: 440.286.9255  
Fax: 440.286.1180

Email: [munson@munsontwp.com](mailto:munson@munsontwp.com)  
Website [www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com)

To reach the Trustees at home  
or Fiscal Officer at the township hall:

Irene H. McMullen, 440.796.6825  
Chairman [imcmullen@munsontwp.com](mailto:imcmullen@munsontwp.com)

Andrew J. Bushman, 440.286.3916  
Trustee [abushman@munsontwp.com](mailto:abushman@munsontwp.com)

Todd R. Ray, 440.285.7063  
Trustee [tray@munsontwp.com](mailto:tray@munsontwp.com)

Patricia A. Bayer, 440.286.9312  
Fiscal Officer [pbayer@munsontwp.com](mailto:pbayer@munsontwp.com)



**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

*Trustees meetings - second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 pm  
Zoning Commission - third Monday at 7 pm.  
Board of Zoning Appeals - third Thursday at 6:30 pm.  
Park Board - third Wednesday at 5:30 pm.*

*Meetings are posted on the township web site, on the sign board in front of the town hall and on G-TV Channel 20, and are sent to the local newspapers for publication.*

**Park Events:**

- ◇ Spring Egg Hunt - Munson Township Park  
Saturday, April 23 at 10:30 am
- ◇ Fishing Derby - Scenic River Retreat  
Saturday, May 21 from 9 am to noon
- ◇ Community Day Picnic - Munson Township Park  
Saturday, August 6 from noon to 5 pm
- ◇ Flea Market - Munson Township Park  
Coming in September

To contact the youth programs that lease the township fields:

[www.munsonbaseball.com](http://www.munsonbaseball.com)  
Geauga YMCA - 440-285-7543 (soccer)